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Classification per OGA letter dated 23 January 2013

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



b7E

1 May 2012

Classified by: ~~J99J49T92~~
Derived from: Multiple Sources
Declassify on: ~~20370404~~

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(U) Source Summary Statement

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^a (U) See text box on page two for further explanation.

^b (U) See text box on page three for further explanation.

^c (U) **High confidence** generally indicates that the FBI's judgments are based on high-quality information or that the nature of the issue makes it possible to render a solid judgment. **Medium confidence** generally means that the information is credibly sourced and plausible, but can be interpreted in various ways, or is not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence. **Low confidence** generally means that the information's credibility or plausibility is questionable, the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make solid analytic inferences, or that the FBI has significant concerns or problems with the sources.

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(U) Hidden Services and Hidden Wiki on Tor

(U) The Onion Router (Tor) is a network tool that can anonymize Internet communications including Web browsing, Internet Relay Chat, instant messaging, file sharing, and Web publishing. Tor hides the originator's Internet protocol (IP) address by routing Internet traffic through a worldwide volunteer network of servers called Tor nodes. Tor was originally sponsored by the US Naval Research Laboratory and is available to the public at the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Web site at the following URLs: tor.cff.org or torproject.org. Hidden services, such as Hidden Wiki, are located within the Tor network and are accessed through a Tor-specific .onion domain.

(U) Hidden Wiki is a free online encyclopedia similar to its counterpart, Wikipedia, and contains articles and links to other hidden services. Hidden Wiki can only be accessed by typing or pasting the Hidden Wiki URL, which changes monthly, into Tor. Access to hidden services is not linked to regular search engine return; therefore, users must use Tor and know specific URLs in order to access services.

(U) Source: Internet site; Torproject.org; "TheOnionRouter/TorFAQ"; 10 December 2011; <http://www.torproject.org/about/overview.html>; opensource website which provides Tor for free and whose reliability is unknown.

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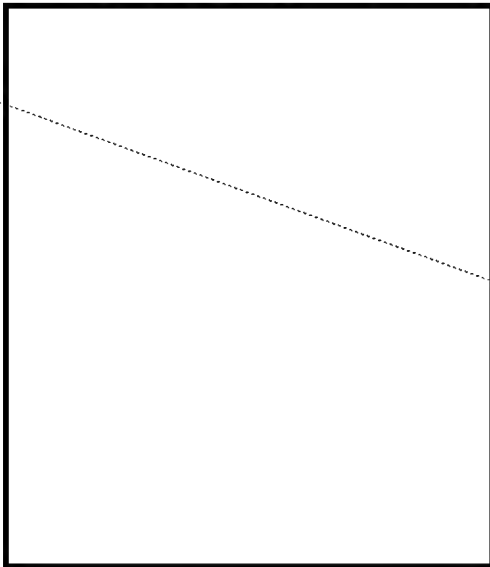
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(S//NF) Bitcoin Potentially Conceals Virtual Financial Transactions

(S//NF) Bitcoin is a peer-to-peer virtual currency which allows its users' increased anonymity, and provides a method to securely transfer and generate funds. By removing financial institutions from the process and allowing transactions to take place between individuals (similar to paying in cash through the Internet), Bitcoin allows users to buy or sell goods and services from others who accept Bitcoin as payment.⁵ Bitcoin may be used by online extremists for material support facilitation and financing terrorist organizations through online solicitations, donations, and fundraising activities, although limited reporting confirms its use for these purposes.

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(U) Bitcoin

(U) Bitcoin was created in 2009 and is the first decentralized, peer-to-peer network-based distributed and anonymous digital currency that may be exchanged for dollars and Euros. As of early 2011, according to open source reporting, the Bitcoin economy was valued at \$5 million and continues to grow. The key to Bitcoin's success is distributing the database of transactions across a peer-to-peer network, which allows the transactions and users to remain anonymous. The distributors of the Tor network, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, call Bitcoin "a censorship-resistant digital currency."

(U) Source: Internet site; Jerry Brito; Time Magazine; "Online Cash Bitcoin Could Challenge Governments, Banks"; 16 April 2011; <http://techland.time.com/2011/04/16/online-cash-bitcoin-could-challenge-governments/>; accessed on 21 October 2011; a well established open source website.

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(U) Outlook and Implications

(S//NF) The FBI assesses that as extremists become aware of tools such as Hidden Wiki and Bitcoin, they are likely to expand their use of them. Extremists continue to be active participants on online forums, some of which are sanctioned by al-Qa'ida. Due to technical advances by law enforcement agencies, which have resulted in the disruption of several prominent individuals active online, some extremists are shifting from utilizing traditional Internet platforms to a greater variety of technically advanced applications in order to communicate, share tradecraft guidance, and produce and disseminate propaganda.

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(S//NF) **Intelligence Collection Requirements Addressed in Paper:** This intelligence bulletin satisfies FBI National Standing Intelligence Requirements for: Counterterrorism - Core al-Qa'ida and Af-Pak Based Militants contained in WW-TERR-CTD-SR-0154-10, Sections II.B.1, II.B.1A, II.B.1B, II.B.6, and II.B.6A and WW-TERR-CTD-SR-0153-10, Sections II.C.1 and IV.B.1; Cyber - Cyber Counterterrorism contained in WW-CYBR-CYD-SR-0001-12, Sections II.A.1E, II.A5A, II.A.6, II.A.7A, II.A.9, and II.B.4B and WW-CYBR-CYD-SR-0002-12, Sections I.A.1, II.A.2, and II.A.6; and National Humint Collection Directive requirements TTR2011A.I.B.7.7, TTR2011A.I.B.8.2, and TTR2011A.I.B.12. This intelligence bulletin addresses the Terrorism (TERR) topic of the

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National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF). Al-Qa'ida and Sunni Extremist are currently ranked as a Threat Priority Level 1 in the Counterterrorism category.



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(U) Endnotes

(U)(U)	X		X	
		X		X
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		X		X

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(S) ³ (U//FOUO) FBI: Case information; 5 July 2011; 5 July 2011; ~~SECRET~~; SECRET [redacted]

⁴ (U//FOUO) FBI: Case information; 19 May 2011; 2 April 2011; ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~; SECRET//NOFORN [redacted]

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(S) [redacted]
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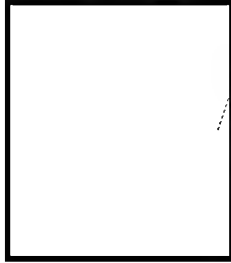
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Distribution



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